JUDGE DREDD®

JENKINS • CASTIELLO

MORE

JUDGE DREDD®

FROM IDW

JUDGE DREDD: THE DARK JUDGES

JUDGE DREDD: UNDER SIEGE

JUDGE DREDD: THE BLESSED EARTH

JUDGE DREDD: MEGA-CITY ZERO

JUDGE DREDD®

TOXIC

Become our fan on Facebook facebook.com/idwpublishing
Follow us on Twitter @idwpublishing
Subscribe to us on YouTube youtube.com/idwpublishing
See what's new on Tumblr tumblr.idwpublishing.com
Check us out on Instagram instagram.com/idwpublishing

Chris Ryall, President, Publisher, & CCO
John Barber, Editor-In-Chief
Robbie Robbins, EVP & Sr. Art Director
Cara Morrison, Chief Financial Officer
Matthew Ruzicka, Chief Accounting Officer
Anita Frazier, SVP of Sales and Marketing
David Hedgecock, Associate Publisher
Jerry Bennington, VP of New Product Development
Lorelei Bunjes, VP of Digital Services
Justin Eisinger, Editorial Director, Graphic Novels & Collections
Eric Moss, Sr. Director, Licensing & Business Development

Ted Adams, IDW Founder

COVER ARTIST
MARK BUCKINGHAM

COVER COLORIST
CHRIS BLYTHE

COLLECTION EDITORS
JUSTIN EISINGER
AND ALONZO SIMON

COLLECTION DESIGNER
CLAUDIA CHONG

PUBLISHER
CHRIS RYALL

eISBN: 9781684067442 DIGITAL

JUDGE DREDD: TOXIC. JUNE 2019. FIRST PRINTING. Judge Dredd © Rebellion 2000 AD Ltd. Judge Dredd is a registered trademark. All rights reserved. © 2019 Idea and Design Works, LLC. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea.
IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

Originally published as JUDGE DREDD: TOXIC issues #1–4.

Special thanks to Ben Smith and Matt Smith for their invaluable assistance.

For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com

JUDGE DREDD® TOXIC

WRITTEN BY
PAUL JENKINS

ART BY
MARCO CASTIELLO

ASSISTANT INKS BY
VINCENZO ACUNZO

COLORS BY
JASON MILLET

LETTERS BY
SHAWN LEE

SERIES ASSISTANT EDITS BY
ELIZABETH BREI AND **ANNI PERHEENTUPA**

SERIES EDITS BY
CHASE MAROTZ

GROUP EDITOR
DENTON J. TIPTON

JUDGE DREDD CREATED BY JOHN WAGNER AND CARLOS EZQUERRA

ART BY **MARK BUCKINGHAM** COLORS BY **CHRIS BLYTHE**

"THIS CITY. MEGA-CITY ONE.

"SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE, IT'S A MONSTER. A *MONSTROSITY*.

"YOU EITHER LOVE IT, OR YOU HATE IT.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS WATCHING YOU

OTTO SLUMP'S UGLY CLINIC: NEW OWNERS!

"BELIEVE ME, THERE'S A LOT MORE *HATE* AROUND HERE THAN LOVE."

KEEP THEM OUT JOIN YOUR LOCAL ANTI-ALIEN LEAGUE AT 1-999-ANO-OFFES

NEW BOING: THE TIME OF OUR LIFE. NOW LEGAL IN SOME PRECINCTS!

"YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THE BROKEN-DOWN OLD BUILDINGS THAT BECAME OUR *FOUNDATION*: SOME PLACE THAT USED TO REPRESENT FREEDOM BUT ENDED UP REPRESENTING FAILURE.

"MEGA-CITY ONE IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BUILD ON TOP OF AN OLD CESSPOOL. YOU GET A *TOILET*.

"EVEN SO, IT'S BETTER IN HERE THAN THAT PILE OF IRRADIATED MUCK ON THE OUTSIDE THEY CALL THE CURSED EARTH.

"ALL THOSE MUTIES TRYIN' TO SURVIVE DAY AFTER DAY IN EXILE. BREATHING IN PLUTONIUM AIR. LIVIN' THE *DREAM*.

"OH, YEAH, IT'S BETTER HERE IN THE CITY. BUT ONLY *JUST*.

"'CAUSE IF IT ISN'T THE *CRIME*, IT'S THE STUPIDITY OF MAN. AND IF IT ISN'T STUPIDITY, THEN IT'S JUST PLAIN OLD *GREED*.

"ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN THE CHAOS THAT IS *HUMANITY* AND THE END OF THE WORLD?

"THE *JUDGES*."

I ASKED FOR AN *OVERVIEW*, CORONER LEVINE. I DIDN'T MEAN YOUR PERSONAL WORLDVIEW.

JUST THE *AUTOPSY* REPORT.

RIGHT, RIGHT... SORRY. IT'S JUST WORKIN' THIS SHIFT, DREDD. THINGS GET KINDA *DARK* SOMETIMES. *YOU* KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

I DON'T. AUTOPSY REPORT.

BODY'S OVER HERE. YOU'LL NEED TO SEE THIS ONE FOR YOURSELF.

A WRITTEN REPORT WOULD HAVE SUFFICED, CORONER.

TRUST ME, THIS IS WORTH IT.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE *SPILLOVER?*

WE HAVEN'T BEEN DOWN INTO THE SPILLOVER IN YEARS. NO NEED. THERE'S NO CRIME DOWN THERE.

EVEN IF WE WANTED TO GO INSIDE, THE AIR IS TOO TOXIC.

THE SCRUBBERS POLICE THEMSELVES, AND MEGA-CITY ONE IS ALL THE BETTER FOR IT.

SURE, SURE. I MEANT HOW IT *WORKS*.

LIKE, WE GOT 800 MILLION PEOPLE UP HERE, AN' NOT TOO MANY OF 'EM ARE INTO *RECYCLING*, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.

"THAT'S 800 MILLION TONS OF POISONOUS WASTE PER YEAR.

"IT ALL FLUSHES DOWNHILL INTO THE *SPILLOVER*."

"THE SCRUBBERS ARE THE REAL HEROES OF MEGA-CITY ONE. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO UNDERGO GENETIC RECONSTRUCTION JUST SO THEY CAN CLEAN UP OUR MESS.

"THEIR GENETIC MODIFICATION ALLOWS THEM TO LIVE IN THE POISON. THEY CAN BREATHE THE TOXIC AIR JUST AS EASILY AS WE BREATHE OXYGEN.

"BUT THE MODIFICATION COMES AT A PRICE. CUSTOM BODILY FUNCTION RESULTS IN EXTREME MUTATION: MISSHAPEN BODIES AND DISFIGURED FACES.

"THE SCRUBBERS STAY IN THE SPILLOVER BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WOULD WANT THEM. I MEAN, WHO NEEDS A *MUTIE* FOR A NEIGHBOR, AM I RIGHT?"

YOU'RE TELLING ME THIS IS A SCRUBBER? THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, JUDGE.

I FIGURED THIS ONE MIGHT HAVE HAD A FULL BODY MOD DONE, BUT THAT'S EXPENSIVE FOR SOMEONE EARNING THOSE KINDA CREDS.

SUBJECT'S NAME IS CLIFTON CHUD, AGED 33. IF HE HAD ADDITIONAL MODS DONE, THEY WERE ALMOST TOO GOOD. HEART CAPACITY IS DOUBLE THAT OF A NORMAL SCRUBBER.

HIS LUNG, LIVER, SPLEEN AND BOWEL FUNCTIONS ARE OFF THE CHARTS. CELL REPLACEMENT CAPACITY IS IMMEASURABLE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING *LIKE* IT.

NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE *THIS*, EITHER.

WHAT IS THAT THING? IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF PARASITE.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT F RST. A *TAPEWORM,* MAYBE. WE PULLED IT OUTTA THE SUBJECT'S THORAX.

THIS IS WHAT I GOT WHEN I RAN THE DNA TEST NG. IT AIN'T FROM AROUND HERE. SOME KIND OF AL EN. BJT NOT A SPEC ES WE HAVE IN OUR DATABASES.

HERE'S THE SECOND CRAZIEST TH NG: IT'S A *SYMBIOTE.* IT EXCRETES MODIF ED DNA AND REPAIRS THE CELL STRJCTURE OF THE HOST.

AND THE CRAZ EST THING?

ALL INDICATIONS ARE THIS THING IS *SENTIENT.*

WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER INTELLIGENT AL EN SPECIES RUNN NG AROUND UNCHECKED IN TH.S CITY. ARE YOU SURE?

DON'T LET ITS SIZE FOOL YOJ.

ALL SIGNS POINT TO AN ADVANCED INTELLECT AND A POSSIBLE PSYCH C CONNECT.ON WITH THE HOST.

WE THINK THESE TENDR..S ALLOW THE CREATJRE TO FULLY IMPLANT. THOSE NODES AT THE END ARE T.ED TO CEREBRAL FUNCT ON.

THIS ONE M.GHT HAVE BECOME S CK. WHEN IT DIED, SO D D THE PERSON CARRYING IT.

SO, WHAT DO WE DO, DREDD? DO WE SEND OUT A C TY-W DE ALERT?

THERE'S NO SENSE IN .NDUCING A PANIC, SCAMMON. FIRST THINGS F RST: ALWAYS CONTA N AND CONTROL THE S.TUATION.

BRING YOUR NOSE PLUGS.

WE'RE GO NG TO FLUSH OUT A FEW ILLEGAL ALIENS.

"WE'RE ALWAYS TARGETS. PEOPLE DON'T FEEL SO COMFORTABLE AROJND SOMEONE WHO CHOOSES TO LOOK LIKE A MJTIE, EVEN THOUGH WE A.N'T MJTIES.

"THAT'S WHY NONE OF US SPEND MJCH TIME ON THE JPS DE."

BJT CLIFTON CHJD WAS REG STERED INTO AN APARTMENT N DANIEL STERN BLOCK.

HE L VED AMONG THE OTHER C.TIZENS.

HIS CHO CE. HE COULD CARRY IT.

HAD A GIRLFR END, TOO: A *LOOKER*. I SEEN SOME P CTURES.

CHJD WAS DIFFERENT. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA *WHY*, CITIZEN SMED?

NOT ME, JUDGE. I MEAN, IT WAS OBVIOUS HE D DN'T LOOK LIKE MOST OF US, BJT HE DID HIS JOB AND PAID HIS UNION DJES.

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, BJT WE AIN'T HAD NO TROUBLE DOWN HERE IN THE SPILLOVER FOR AS LONG AS I'VE BEEN FOREMAN.

ALL OJR PEOPLE CHECK OJT. THEY ALL PAY THEIR TAXES ON TIME. AND ALL THEY GET FOR IT IS AS MJCH CRAP AS THEY CAN SHOVEL. MIND TELLING ME WHAT TH.S IS ABOJT, JJDGE?

SOME OF YOJR PEOPLE ALREADY KNOW, CITIZEN.

I WANT EVERY SINGLE SCRJBBER IN TH S SECTOR ASSEMBLED ON THE LOWER OPS DECK IN 10 MINJTES.

I CAN'T DO THAT! IF WE TAKE ALL THE SCRUBBERS OFF AT ONCE, THIS PLACE WOULD POP LIKE A BLISTER.

TRUST ME, JUDGE, YOU DON'T WANT THAT.

NOT MY PROBLEM, CITIZEN. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN A CONTAMINAT ON IN THE SPILLOVER—

OH, YEAH? WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CLUE?

I WILL REMIND YOU THE HARBORING OF UNSANCTIONED OR UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS MAY RESULT IN FIVE TO 30 IN AN ISOCUBE AND A FINE OF UP TO 50 THOUSAND CREDITS.

AM I FULLY UNDERSTOOD?

THEY'LL BE ASSEMBLED IN FIVE MINUTES. MINUS A SKELETON CREW.

ACCEPTABLE. BUT I'LL NEED TO INTERVIEW THE SKELETON CREW IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS.

GIVE ME A LIST OF NAMES, AND TELL THEM TO BE READY WHEN THE SHIFT CHANGES.

ALL THEIR PAPERS ARE IN ORDER, DREDD.

ATTENTION, SCRJBBERS:

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A POSSIBLE INCURS ON INTO YOUR RANKS BY JNDOCJMENTED AL ENS OF NO DETERMINED ORIGIN!

THE TIME FOR HARBOR NG SJCH AN ENTITY .S A M.N MJM FIVE-TO-30!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, JUDGE? HELL, I AIN'T BEEN OUT OF THE SPILLOVER IN SIX YEARS, AN' LAST T.ME I WAS, SOMEONE THREW A ROCK AT ME FOR DARING TO MAKE THE R CITY CLEANER.

LOOK AROUND YOJ: THERE A N'T NO ONE DOWN HERE BJT US SCRUBS.

THE ILLEGALS I AM LOOKING FOR MAY BE HID NG W TH N A BODY CAVITY OR OTHER OR F.CE.

I AM PREPARED TO OFFER THE FIRST ADMISS ON OF GUILT A CHANCE AT AMNESTY, OR A REDUCTION IN SENTENCING IN THE EVENT OF ADDITIONAL CR MES.

YOU'RE LOOKIN' DOWN THE WRONG J-BEND, JUDGE! AIN'T NONE OF US WOULDN'T TAKE A BULLET FOR ANY OTHER SCRUBBER!

SO, TELL ME: ARE YOU PREPARED TO PERSONALLY INSPECT ALL OF OUR ORIFICES?

NO NEED, CITIZEN. IT'S CLEAR WHO WE NEED TO QUESTION FIRST—

WITH ME, PLEASE, CITIZEN—

WAIT!

THIS IS *PROFILING!* I AIN'T DONE NOTHIN' WRONG!

I'LL SPEAK FOR THE OTHERS.

PLEASE. LET HIM GO.

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR NATAL CERTIFICATE?

GR D.

WHAT IS YOUR FULL NAME?

JUST "GR.D."

I DON'T LIKE IT. SHE KNOWS MORE THAN SHE'S TELLING US—

YOJ DON'T LIKE ANYTHING, DREDD.

HOW ABOUT YOU LET ME DO THE TALK NG, AND YOU JUST GO GRIMACE IN THE CORNER, OKAY?

JUDGES DREDD AND ANDERSON... I AM UNABLE TO DETERMINE ACCURATE RESPONSE SIGNALS. SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE JAMMING OUR FEED.

WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, HAROLD. THANK YOU.

WE HAVEN'T COMMITTED ANY CRIMES. ALL WE'VE EVER DONE IS HELP PEOPLE.

INTERNAL SCANS SHOW YOJ ARE HARBORING AN LLEGAL ALIEN. TELL ME, CIT ZEN, DID SOMEONE PAY FOR YOUR MOD F.CATIONS IN RETURN FOR SUCH A SERVICE?

DREDD, SHUT UP. PLEASE

YOU'RE HARBOR.NG A SYMB OTE. CAN YOU COMMUNICATE WITH IT?

I DON'T KNOW.. I MEAN, I FEEL WHAT IT SAYS, JJDGE. LIKE AN IMPRESS.ON.

I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH OFF-WORLD ENTITIES. MAY I COMMJN CATE WITH YOUR GUEST?

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT.

OH.

STAY ON POINT, ANDERSON. DON'T GET ALL EMOTIONAL ON ME.

RELAX, DREDD. I *AM* ON POINT! JJST RES.DUAL EMOTION, THAT'S ALL.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? WHY ARE YOU HERE?

*DO NOT KNOW. PLANET IS DISTANT. D.D NOT TRAVEL HERE BY OUR CHOOSING.

"ORIGINAL HOSTS. SIMPLE ENTITIES. NOT COMPLEX, LIKE YOU.

"HOSTS GIFTED US SJSTENANCE. WE GIFTED THEM LIFE.

"HARVESTERS CAME TORN FROM OUR HOSTS. TAKEN.

"STOLEN. STARVED. SOLD."

*AND HERE WE CAME. TO THIS PLACE. BY MISTAKE.

*WE DID NOT CHOOSE. WE CANNOT RETURN.

JUDGE DREDD, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND... I CHOSE THIS ARRANGEMENT. MOST OF US DID. THE "BLENDERS," WE CALL THEM... THEY NEEDED US.

I'M NOT WITHOUT COMPASSION, CITIZEN. YOU MAY STATE YOJR CASE TO OFF-WORLD REGISTRATION UPON APPEAL.

YOJ DON'T JNDERSTAND WHAT THEY DO FOR US. ALL OF US SCRUBBERS... WE KNOW THE PATH WE'VE CHOSEN, AND WHAT IT COSTS.

THE BLENDERS ARE MAKING US BETTER, HELPING US THRIVE. THEY'RE DIRECTLY HELPING THE CITY.

HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THERE? I WANT NJMBERS—

DREDD, WOULD YOU PLEASE *RELAX?*

LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPEN NG HERE.

I RECOMMEND WE TREAT THIS AS AN ASYLUM INCIDENT FOR THE TIME BEING. WE CAN WORK UP AN OFFER OF IMMJN TY IN RETJRN FOR FJLL COOPERATION.

JUDGE DREDD!

CHIEF JUDGE HERSHEY'S OUTSIDE IN THE ATR.UM.

SHE NEEDS YOU, PRONTO.

CHIEF JUDGE. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

YOU TELL ME, DREDD. WALK WITH ME, AND GIVE ME THE BASICS.

UNDOCUMENTED ILLEGALS. THEY'RE A POTENTIAL BENEFIT TO THE CITY. ANDERSON WANTS TO GRANT IMMUNITY.

SHE'S RIGHT. AND DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. YOU *KNOW* SHE IS.

BUT THEY BROKE THE LAW.

IN FEAR OF THEIR LIVES. THIS IS CLEARLY AN ASYLUM SITUATION.

MEGA-CITY ONE IS A SANCTUARY CITY, AND AS SUCH, WE HAVE LEGAL PRECEDENT ON THIS.

THEN, IF I MAY ASK, CHIEF JUDGE. WHY DO YOU NEED ME?

BECAUSE IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT SIMPLE—

NO ALI

OFFIES GO HOME!

NO MORE OFFIES!

NO ALI

ALIEN FREE ZONE AND NORMS ONLY!!!

HOW DID ALL THESE PEOPLE FIND OUT?

OH, I KNOW HOW YOU SO LOVE THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, DREDD! *YOU* F GURE IT OUT!

JJDGES! YOU ALLOWED THESE OFF.ES INTO OJR C TY, AND NOW THE WHOLE PLACE W LL BE CONTAMINATED!

WE OF THE ANTI-ALIEN LEAGUE DEMAND THAT YOU CONVICT EVERYONE INVOLVED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE CORONER'S OFFICE, THE JJDIC ARY COMM.TTEE, AND THE SAFE HAVEN SOC ETY! THEY'RE ALL *TRAITORS!*

STOP OFFIES

NO MORE OFFIES

BACK OFF, CITIZEN—

I KNOW MY R GHTS, DREDD! WE HAVE PROTEST PERMITS!

EVERYONE GET BACK!

THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING!

JUDGE DREDD! I NEED YOU! *NOW!*

WHAT IS IT, SCAMMON?

GOT A PROBLEM DOWN AT THE SPILLOVER! ANDERSON'S THERE RIGHT NOW! THERE'S A CROWD MASSING AT THE GATES!

DROKK IT!

ANDERSON, THIS IS DREDD! I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THE PROTESTS AT OUR LOCATION WERE INTENDED TO BE A *DIVERSION*—

GLAD YOU FIGURED IT OUT, DREDD, BUT I THINK WE ALREADY NOT CED! I NEED A SQUAD OF H-WAGONS DOWN HERE, STAT! ALL AVAILABLE JUDGES TO THIS VICINITY!

I MEAN *NOW!*

ALL CITIZENS ARE REQU RED TO DISPERSE.

TH S HAS BEEN DES GNATED AN ILLEGAL GATHER NG.

I REPEAT: ALL C TIZENS DISPERSE.

SCAMMON! GIVE ME A CROWD ANALYS.S

ON IT, DREDD.

WE'RE LOOK NG AT ROUGHLY 300, MOSTLY HUMAN WITH ABOUT 10 WAR DROIDS MASS NG AT THE EAST END.

SAY NO TO AL EN SCJM!

NOT ON OUR PLANET, NO WAY!

"SOME OF THEM ARE WEARING GRID MASKS! THEY'RE MASSING FOR AN ASSAULT!"

HALT: DO NOT PROCEED-!

DREDD, I'M READING EMP'S AND THERMOS ACTIVATED! IF THEY BREAK INTO THE SPILLOVER ENTRYWAY...

...ALL JUDGES, EXPLOS VE ORD NANCE HAS BEEN ACTIVATED! RESP.RATORS *DOWN!*

I REPEAT: ALL JUDGES, RESPIRATORS DOWN!

RESPIRATORS DOWN! RESPIRATORS DOWN!

ART BY **MARK BUCKINGHAM** COLORS BY **CHRIS BLYTHE**

"THIS CITY.

"THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING BUBBLING UNDER THE SURFACE.

'LEASE STAY INDO(

"YOU CAN TRY TO IGNORE IT. YOU CAN TRY TO LOOK AWAY. BUT IT'LL ALWAYS FIND YOU

"THAT'S MEGA-CITY ONE FOR YOU.

"ALWAYS TEN SECONDS REMOVED FROM A GIANT SHIT-STORM."

MOVE BACK! MOVE BACK!

DREDD, THAT WASTE CONTAINS TRACES OF ULTRA-CARBORANE ACID! IT'S GOING TO DISSOLVE THIS ENTIRE AREA!

PURITY FOR ONE, PURITY FOR ALL! OUR PURITY WILL NEVER BE *OVERCOME*—

FIES!

KEEP OUR PLANET PURE

PLEASE VACATE THE SPILLOVER ENTRANCE IN AN ORDERLY... BZZT... FASHION...

GO HOME

SCAMMON, VISUAL REPORT!

THAT TOXIC WASTE IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SHRED THE PERIMETER. IT'S GOING TO SEEP DIRECTLY BELOW. WASTE GASES ARE BUILDING RAPIDLY.

THERE'S ANOTHER UPWELLING AT THE SPILLOVER ENTRANCE...

OH, MY GOD, DREDD IT'S GOING TO *BLOW*

"YEAH. THIS *CITY*.

"SWIMMING IN ITS OWN SLUDGE. IT'S JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER CITY.

"ALL THE GOOD PEOPLE—THE ONES WHO KEEP EVERYTHING RUNNING—ARE ON THE OUTS.

"THEY'RE THE POOR BASTARDS EVERYONE *CRAPS* ON, EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK.

"NO ONE LOVES THE GOOD GUYS.

"BUT WHEN IT ALL BREAKS DOWN...

"...WHEN THE CITIZENS SUDDENLY REALIZE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO *GO* TO HELL IN A HANDBASKET...

"...WHO DO YOU THINK THEY *CALL* FOR?"

SO, ANYWAY... THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING, I GUESS THEY ALWAYS CALL ON US WHEN IT ALL HITS THE FAN. YOU EVER *THINK* ABOUT THAT, DREDD?

I'M THINKING ABOUT A TIDAL WAVE OF TOXIC WASTE HEADED OUR WAY.

WAIT. ONE OF OUR PERPS UP THERE. RECOGNIZE HIM FROM BEFORE THE EXPLOSION.

HOLD YOUR POSITION.

ATTENTION, PERPETRATOR! YOU HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN THE COMMISSION OF MULTIPLE CRIMES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: MURDER, ATTEMPTED MURDER, POSSESSION OF UNREGULATED EXPLOSIVES...

DREDD, HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD! WE NEED TO MOVE BACK!

THE JUDGEMENT IS GUILTY.

THE SENTENCE IS *DEATH.*

BLAM

...SIR... PLEASE CLEAR THE AREA... BZZZT...

DREDD, WAS THAT ENT RELY NECESSARY?

A JUDGE'S DUTY DOESN'T DIMINISH BASED ON CIRCUMSTANCE, ANDERSON. YOU KNOW THAT.

JUDGES... WHENEVER YOJ'RE READY...

LET'S MOVE! GO!

ONE WEEK LATER.

"IT COULD BE WORSE."

WORSE? EXPLAIN.

SOME OF THE DEBRIS MAY HAVE MOVED DOWN INTO THESE OPEN AREAS. WE DON'T KNOW HOW FAR OUT THEY EXTEND.

IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE SOME OF THE SCRUBBERS MADE THEIR WAY BELOW TO SAFETY. THEY'RE NOT AFFECTED LIKE WE ARE

WE CAN'T GET INSIDE TO FIND OUT. TECHS ARE USING LIDAR AND EXISTING RECORDS TO MAP EVERYTHING OUT.

WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF THE SPILLOVER, TO BE HONEST.

SO, SOME SCRUBBERS MAY HAVE SURVIVED. GOOD. WE'LL NEED THEM.

IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS, I'M AFRAID.

THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HADN'T COME HERE.

I GOT HALF OF MY PEOPLE *MISSING* AN' THE OTHER HALF PROBABLY *DROWNED* AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SPILLOVER THANKS TO YOU, DREDD!

MY SCRUBBERS NEVER DID A THING EXCEPT CLEAN UP AFTER EVERYONE ELSE IN THIS GRUDDAMN CITY. AN' NOW, WE'RE ALL PAYIN' FOR IT! SO TELL ME, HOW DO YOU PEOPLE UP THERE LIKE BREATHING IN ALL THAT *TOXIC AIR?*

YOUR CONCERNS ARE DULY NOTED, CITIZEN. AND YOUR EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

THE PRIMARY FOCUS MUST REMAIN ON CLEAN-UP.

CITIZEN SMED, WE'VE RECRUITED SOME OF THE OLD ALPHA AND DELTA SERIES JANITORIAL DROIDS TO ASSIST IN THE SPILLOVER WHILE THE SITUATION COMES UNDER CONTROL.

THEY'RE BEING VOLUNTARILY REPROGRAMMED—

YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? THANKS TO THE OH-SO TOLERANT PEOPLE OF THIS FINE CITY, MY SCRUBBERS ARE *OUTCASTS* NOW. EVERYONE THINKS WE'RE HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS.

ANY SCRUBBERS WHO AREN'T DEAD OR MISSING HAVE QUIT IN FEAR OF THEIR LIVES. I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE LEFT TO MAKE THIS WORK.

JANITOR DROIDS ARE READY TO GO INS.DE, DREDD. WE'RE OPENING THE SPILLOVER DOORS N FIVE TO TEN.

GOOD.

ATTENTION, ALL DRO.DS.

THE PEOPLE OF MEGA-C.TY ONE— NOT TO MENTION THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE CHIEF JUDGE HERSELF— APPREC ATE THE SACRIF CES YOU ARE MAK.NG TODAY!

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT FOR MANY—IF NOT ALL—OF YOU, WORKING IN SUCH A TOXIC ENVIRONMENT WILL RESULT .N TERM NATION OF YOUR FUNCT.ON.

YOUR BRAVERY AND SACR.FICE FOR THE GOOD OF THE CITY WILL NOT SOON BE FORGOTTEN. YOUR SERIAL NUMBERS W.LL REMAIN IN PERPETU TY IN THE GRAND HALL OF JUST CE MUSEUM DISPLAY.

JUDGE, MANY OF US BE OLD AND RUST-BUCKETS. ALL OF US FAIL IN THE END.

POLICY WILL LEAD BROTHER AND SISTER TO HELP SAVE CITY. IS WHAT WE DO. WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

THEY'RE JUST R—

CAN IT, DREDD!

OPEN THE FRONT GATES! THEY'RE GOING IN!

THOSE ARE SOME GOOD DROIDS THERE, JUDGE. BUT THEY AIN'T GONNA LAST TWO HOURS INSIDE THE SPILLOVER. NO MACHINE EVER DOES.

TAKES A SCRUBBER TO NAVIGATE THE LOWER SECTIONS. HELL, EVEN I DON'T KNOW HALF THE TUNNELS DOWN THERE.

SORRY TO SAY IT—I MEAN I KNOW THEM DROIDS ARE GONNA GIVE IT THEIR BEST BEFORE THE SCRAG GETS 'EM—BUT THIS WHOLE CITY'S SITTING ON A STICK OF DYNAMITE.

AIR'S GONNA GET TO TOXIC LEVELS PRETTY QUICK IF WE CAN'T BRING THE ACID EXCRETIONS UNDER CONTROL.

THEN GIVE ME A *SOLUTION.*

DREDD, WAIT... WHAT IF THERE ARE MORE OF THE SYMBIOTES? THEY'RE PROTECTED UNDER ASYLUM REGULATIONS NOW.

IF WE CAN TRACK MORE OF THEM DOWN, MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOME TAKERS AS NEW HOSTS AND GET THIS PLACE CLEANED UP.

FOR ONCE I AGREE WITH YOU, ANDERSON.

LET'S GO.

HEY, YOU KNOW ME, DREDD: OL' HARKIE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT NO ILLEGAL ALIENS. ALL MY PEOPLE ARE ON THE UP AN' UP.

IF I COULD HELP YOU, I WOULD. GOD KNOWS THIS PLACE IS BEGINNING TO *STINK*.

JUDGE SCAMMON, I BELIEVE THIS CITIZEN HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION FOR US.

PLEASE PROVIDE HIM WITH A FULL DETAIL OF HIS HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS.

CITIZEN HARKNESS WILL BE CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS OF INTERIOR HEALTH REGULATION, INCLUDING:

UNSANCTIONED WALL COVERINGS, DISOBEYANCE OF TRASH ORDINANCE, AND VIOLATIONS OF EXTERIOR COLOR CODES.

COLOR CODES? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

IN ADDITION, OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE, OBSTRUCTION OF A JUDGE IN THE LINE OF DUTY—

WAIT.. WAIT, I GET IT! I GET IT!

LET'S SAY, *HYPOTHETICALLY*, I HAD THIS FRIEND WHO SAW SOME STUFF THAT WENT DOWN.

HE MIGHT'VE SEEN THOSE SYMBIOTES YOU'RE ASKIN' ABOUT, BROUGHT IN BY SOME GLARIUT TRADERS A FEW YEARS BACK.

MAYBE THERE WAS A *RUMOR*.

SOME OF THEM THINGS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SOLD ON THE BLACK MARKET TO SOME RICH TYPES FOR BODY MODIFICATION PURPOSES.

BUT THE WHOLE THING WENT UP IN SMOKE WHEN SOME JUDGES BUSTED IT ALL UP, AN' THE ALIENS GOT LEFT IN A STORAGE FACILITY.

HYPOTHETICALLY.

YEAH, YEAH... HYPOTHET CALLY. SO, IT TURNS OUT THAT SOME OF THOSE OFFIES SURV VED AN' GOT OUT.

NO ONE KNEW HOW, OR WHERE THEY WENT. BUT IT GOT A LOT OF PEOPLE UPSET AT THE LOSS OF REVENUE, IF YOU CATCH MY DR FT?

I'M CATCH NG IT.

SO, THIS FRIEND OF YOURS WAS A MATERIAL WITNESS TO A SLAVE TRADING OPERATION?

HE M.GHT'VE BEEN. HE AIN'T A VERY N CE GJY.

WAIT--

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FRIEND'S EXISTENCE MAKES YOU A MATER.AL ACCOMPLICE AFTER THE FACT, HARKIE.

WE WILL ACCEPT YOUR STATEMENT AS AN ADM.SSION OF GU.LT.

WAIT! YOU SAID--

SITUATIONAL ANALYS S, SCAMMON.

SUSPECT'S ADMISSION PROV DES PROBABLE CAJSE, JUDGE. SUGGEST WE BRING IN FORENSICS TO COMB THROUGH HIS BOOKKEEPING.

LOOKING FOR...?

GLARIJT TRADERS. NOT SOMEONE I'D WANT TO BE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF, PERSONALLY.

THERE A.N'T NO ONE EVER CROSSED A GLARIUT AN' NOT BEEN TORT.RED FOR IT, THEN RIPPED APART LIKE GROUND BEEF.

WHATEVER YOU TWO JUDGES NEED, I'LL COOPERATE.

YOU DID WELL IN THERE, SCAMMON: READ THE S TUATION ASTJTELY.

THANK YOU, JUDGE DREDD.

WE'LL HEAD BACK INTO THE CENTRAL HALL AND REQUEST THE PERP'S OFFWORLD MANIFEST RECORDS—

JUDGE, LOOK OUT—!

WELL, WELL... IF IT AIN'T A COUPLE OF OFFWORLD-LOVING JUDGES HEADING OUT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A KNOWN ALIEN SYMPATHIZER.

PINCH ME, I'M DREAMIN', BOYS WE GOT OURSELVES A TWO-FER.

LAWGIVER! ACTIVATE. STANDARD EXECJT ON ROUNDS!

LAWGIVER! HEAT SEEKERS!

TOO LATE, JUDGES! WE KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE!

SAYONARA! AH-HA HA HA HA!

DROKK.

THAT WAS RECKLESS, SCAMMON. YOUR PR MARY OBJECT:VE IS TO SELF-PRESERVE AND THEN ENGAGE.

BY SAVING MY LIFE, YOU R SKED YOURS.

I BELIEVED MY SURV.VAL ODDS NCREASED W TH THE ASS STANCE OF AN EXPER ENCED JUDGE COVER NG MY FLANK. I REQUEST THAT TACTICAL ASSESSMENT BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

DULY NOTED. YOUR REQUEST WILL BE CONS DERED.

DON'T WORRY, SCAMMON. HE TRIES THE SAME CRAP W.TH ALL HIS UNDERLINGS.

EVEN AN ASS-KISSER LIKE YOU.

NOW LISTEN UP. YOU TOO, DREDD.

WE'VE HAD A NEW ASSESSMENT OF THE S.TUATION FROM PUBLIC WORKS. THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE. A *LOT* WORSE.

HALF THIS SECTOR'S SEWER SYSTEM TOOK A HIT, AND THE TOXIC BACKWASH CREATED A CHEMICAL FEEDBACK WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

"YOU KNOW THAT SAYING ABOUT HOW IT RJNS DOWNHILL?

"WELL, NOT *ANYMORE.*"

"SHORT VERSION: THE AIR JPSTAIRS IS GETTING THICK WITH TOXINS AND BIO-HAZARDS, QU TE A FEW OF THEM UNKNOWN. PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO PAN C.

"AJTOMATED CITY FUNCTIONS SUCH AS HIGHWAYS AND PED-S GNALS ARE COMPROMISED AS THE ACID SHORTS OUT THEIR SYSTEMS.

"MEANTIME, OJR FR ENDS AT THE ANTI-AL EN LEAGUE HAVE FOUND A NEW ANGLE. THEY'RE CLA M.NG ANYONE WITH AN OPPOS NG VIEWPOINT IS HARBORING A SYMB OTE.

"PRETTY EFFECTIVE, TOO HA.F THE POL TICOS UP THERE ARE NOW JJMP NG ON THE BANDWAGON.

"EVERYONE'S A SECRET AL EN SYMPATHIZER."

WE'VE GOT TOUCH POINTS ALL OVER THE C TY.

PUBLIC WORKS SAYS WE'VE GOT S X DAYS, TOPS, BEFORE THE A R'S TOO TOXIC TO BREATHE. AND .T CAN'T BE VENTILATED.

VENTILATORS AREN'T WORKING.

WHY NOT?

JUDGES, I HATE TO BREAK JP THE PARTY BUT THAT MAY BE THE LEAST OF OJR WORRIES.

GOT A SITJAT ON, MID-TOWN.

"ONE OF THE SCRUBBERS HAS BEEN LIVING IN WOLF ZAMA BLOCK JUST NORTH OF THE CENTRAL INTERCHANGE. GUY LOOKS LIKE A NORM, SO IT'S LIKELY HE'S HARBORING A SYMBIOTE.

"PEOPLE IN HIS BLOCK ARE SUPPORTIVE. HE'S A HERO, EVEN

"PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORING LIONEL MESS BLOCK, NOT SO *MUCH*."

JP THERE! LET'S GO!

GET BACK! GET BACK!

YOU CAN'T TELL US WHAT TO DO! THEY GOT AN ALIEN UP THERE!

JJDGE ERLONG—

DREDD, WE'VE GOT CONTA NMENT ON THE SUBJECT BUT THE S TUATION'S GETTING OJT OF HAND. MASS HYSTERIA. WE NEED TO CONTAIN, QUICKLY!

JUDGE DREDD! YOU GOTTA ARREST THAT STINKIN' OFFIE! IT KILLED ONE OF OUR RES.DENTS!

YEAH! PUSHED H M OFF A BALCONY, THEN SUCKED THE BLOOD RIGHT OJT OF HIS CHEST!

C.TIZENS, THIS IS YOUR ONE AND ONLY WARN NG: MOVE BACK FROM THE CORDON AND RETURN TO YOUR DES GNATED BLOCK.

YOU ARE V OLAT NG MULTIPLE ORDINANCES, INCLUDING UNRJLY ASSEMBLY AND THE INTERRJPT ON OF LOCAL NOISE ABATEMENT CODES!

I SA D MOVE BACK!

JJDGE, YOJ AIN'T GETTIN' THE MESSAGE! THERE'S A KILLER ALIEN UP THERE!

NO ONE KILLED ANYONE, CIT ZEN! NOW GET *BACK!*

YEAH? WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE SAYIN' THAT BECAJSE ALL YOU WLFERS ARE AL.ENS TOO!

JOEY AIN'T NEVER HARMED A SOUL! HE'S ONE OF OUR OWN!

JUDGE DREDD .. I SWEAR I NEVER D D NOTHIN'.

I JJST WANTED TO LIVE L KE EVERYONE E.SE. THE BLENDER JUST *HELPS* ME, S ALL.

WE'LL ADDRESS THAT LATER, C TIZEN. WE'RE MOV NG YOU INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.

YEAH, YEAH .. SURE. WHERE ARE WE GO NG, EXACTLY?

LOOK! THEY'RE TAK.NG HIM AWAY!

THE JUDGES ARE IN ON .T TOO!

THEY'RE ALL *ALIENS!*

YOU CALL THIS PROTECTIVE—?

CITIZEN! STAY DOWN UNTIL WE CLEAR THE AREA!

BLAM

THEY KILLED HIM. THOSE BUTCHERS FROM MESSI BLOCK MURDERED JOEY.

WE NEVER MURDERED NO ONE! KILLING ILLEGALS IS OUR CIV C DUTY!

OH YEAH—?

EVERYONE CALM DOWN—

—UKKK!

THE MESS DROKKERS MURDERED ONE OF OUR OWN, RIGHT ON OUR FRONT STEPS.

NOW IT'S A *BLOCK WAR.*

ART BY **MARK BUCKINGHAM** COLORS BY **CHRIS BLYTHE**

*THIS C.TY. MEGA-CITY ONE.

*LIKE A SEPTIC *PHOENIX* T RISES, COUGH.NG AND SPLUTTERING, FROM THE ASHES OF DEATH.

*HERE IN MID-CENTRAL, A BATTLE RAGES: A BLOCK WAR. A TERRITORIAL OUTBURST THAT SHOWS NO SIGN OF ABATING.

*FLECKS OF ANGRY SPITTLE FLY BETWEEN WARRING FACT.ONS, L KE HOT ROCKS FROM HUMAN VOLCANOES.

*VENOM FILLS THE AIR, TO MIX WITH THE POISON SEEP.NG OUT OF THE SPILLOVER.

*ALL OF THIS WILL SURELY SPARK A TOX C F RE AS OUR SUBTERRANEAN SUPERVOLCANO PREPARES TO ERJPT."

"THIS IS THE SCENE AT THE WILF ZAHA AND LIONEL MESSI BLOCKS—IN THE MID-CENTRAL TENANCY SECTOR—WHERE WARRING BLOCK FACTIONS ARE NOW FULLY ENGAGED.

"HOPING TO CONTAIN THE SITUATION, AN OVERMATCHED JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS CORDONED OFF ALL ENDS OF THE CONNECTING STREETS, LEAVING THE BATTLE TO RAGE, AND HOPEFULLY EXTINGUISH ITSELF.

"BUT THE FLAME OF ANTIPATHY BURNS MAGNESIUM-BRIGHT UNDER THE GLOOM OF THE DARKENING SKY. A *VOLCANIC WINTER* THREATENS.

"NEARBY, THE ZOOMTUBES AND BOOMWAYS LAY IDLE, SNARLED AND DAMAGED AS HEAVY MORTAR FIRE HAS MOVED INTO THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS; A SUPERVOLCANO SPITTING PUMICE IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

"IN THE SKIES ABOVE MEGA-CITY ONE, CITY ORDINANCE WORKS TO SEED THE POISON AIR, HOPING TO FLUSH THE ACID FROM THE ATMOSPHERE.

THIS CITY, THEN—AS ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE THE CASE—KNOWS NO CALM BEFORE THE STORM. INSTEAD, IT IS OVERWHELMED BY RAGING FIRES.

A PRECURSOR TO THE NEXT HUMAN ERUPTION.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CLIMATE-CONTROLLED MEMORY, RAIN WILL FALL AS FORECASTS CALL FOR HEAVY DOWNPOURS OF ACID RAIN AND BILE."

BEHIND ME, THE GOOD CITIZENS OF WHAT WAS ONCE THE WILL, ZAHN AND CROPPER MESSI BLOCKS GIVE VOICE AND FACE TO OUR SOCIETAL DIVIDE.

EACH BLAMING THE OTHER, EACH UNAWARE OR UNINTERESTED IN THE COMING STORM.

*WITH AN ESTIMATED FIVE TO TEN THOUSAND CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES, A THOUSAND JUDGES WORK TO CONTAIN THE DAMAGE.

*TRAFFIC IS BROKEN. THE ARTS DECAYED. THE VERY FABRIC OF SOCIETY ITSELF HANGS BY A THREAD.

*JUST ANOTHER DAY, THEN, IN MID-CENTRAL MEGA-CITY ONE

*THIS IS KALL-ME-KRONK SIGNING OFF, LIVE FROM THE FRONTLINES ON WBOT NEWS, CHANNEL 4387."

DID WE GET THAT?

WE SHOULD BE THERE.

WHAT, GETTING OUR ASSES KICKED IN THE MIDDLE OF A *BLOCK WAR?* WE'LL DO MORE GOOD R GHT HERE.

TAKE NOTE, SCAMMON: ON TH.S OCCASION, JUDGE ANDERSON IS CORRECT IN HER ASSESSMENT

BLOCK WARS ARE TEMPORARY EVENTS. THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE REMAINS CENTRAL TO ALL JUDGES' DEC.SIONS.

OH, FOR DROKK'S SAKE

...JUDGES ANDERSON, SCAMMON AND DREDD TO SEE MISTER PHETA.

WELCOME, JUDGES ANDERSON AND DREDD, IN THE FLESH! WE ARE HONORED!

YOU'RE *PHETA*, SO-CALLED BODY MODIFIER TO THE STARS. I TRUST YOU'RE APPR SED OF THE REASON FOR THIS INTERV EW, CIT ZEN?

MMH. YES, YES. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR OFFWORLDERS. I MADE A CALL TO THE AUTHORIT ES JUST AS SOON AS I LEARNED ABOUT TH S AWFUL BUS.NESS.

AND BEFORE YOU ASK, DREDD, ALL MY PETS ARE SANCTIONED, SPAYED OR NEJTERED, AND THEY ARE UP TO DATE ON SHOTS. EVEN MY PERSONAL ASSISTANT, LUDOVIC.

WELL, HERE WE ARE... THIS IS HOW THE OTHER HALF L.VES. WICKED THOUGHT: I'D LOVE TO DO SOME BODY MODS ON YOU, JUDGE DREDD.

THE ONLY BODY MODIFICATION I'M INTERESTED IN COMES COURTESY OF MY LAWG VER.

HA HA! POLICE BRUTALITY JOKES! *CAUSTIC!* I *ADORE* YOU, DREDD!

JUST BRING US TO THE SYMB.OTES.

IT'S THIS WAY. WE'LL GO DOWN TO MY SHOP.

YOU KNOW, WE'RE HAV.NG A JUST CE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL OFFER ON A.L MODS THIS WEEK.

SADLY, ATTITUDE MODIFICAT.ON IS NOT A PART OF THAT PLAN.

NOW, TO BUSINESS: WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT I MAY BE HARBOR.NG ILLEGALS, YOU WILL HAVE NOTED MY ASSISTANT MADE AN IMMEDIATE CALL TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

WE WERE JNABLE TO TRACE THE PJRCHASE ORDER THAT CAME WITH OUR UNWITTING "PJRCHASE" OF THE SYMBIOTES. I'M AFRAID THAT SORT OF THING IS AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD WITH MANY OF OUR CLIENTS.

BJT I ASSURE YOU, THE OFFWORLDERS ARE HERE AND IN GOOD HEALTH, AND I'M READY TO HAND THEM OVER TO THE AJTHORITIES, AS .S MY CIVIC DUTY.

AND I'M READY, OF COURSE, TO COOPERATE IN ANY MEAN.NGFUL WAY NECESSARY, IN THE SPIRIT OF PRESERV.NG MY BUSINESS ASSETS.

AH! HERE WE ARE!

THIS IS IT? THIS IS PHETAMOD?

IT'S "RETRO-IMMIGRANT CHIC." TRUST ME, DARLING, OUR CLIENTS LINE UP FOR THE CHANCE TO F X THEMSELVES IN SUCH SURROUNDINGS.

BUSINESS IS *BOOMING* SINCE WE TOOK OVER THE OLD OTTO SUMP OPERATION.

NOW, THIS IS MRS. MIGGINS—SHE'S BEEN WITH US FOR AGES.

MISSY, DEAR... DO YOU HAVE THE PAPERWORK ON OUR PURCHASE OF THE SYMBIOTES? THERE'S A LOVE.

AH, HERE WE ARE! I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT WHILE WE LIKE TO KEEP OUR RECORDS IN AN OLD SCHOOL MANLA MANNER, THEY'RE ALL UP TO DATE AND IN ORDER—

DREDD! OVER HERE!

THESE ARE BLENDERS? THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH.

HOW DID YOU *WANT* THEM TO LOOK?

YOU'LL FIND OUR PURCHASE ORDER IN HERE, THOUGH, I'D NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE SELLER GAVE A FAKE NAME AND ID.

WE DID HAVE SOME VERY INTERESTED BUYERS WHO TOOK POSSESSION OF SOME OF THE CREATURES.

ONE PERSON IN PARTICULAR: WHEN I TELL YOU WHO IT IS, IT'LL BLOW YOUR *MIND*—

—UKK!

SCAMMON! COVER THE BLENDERS! WE'LL TAKE THE STREETS!

ON IT, DREDD!

EXCUSE US, CITIZENS: OFF.CIAL BJSINESS.

WE'RE COMMANDEER NG THIS CITY VEHICLE. STEP BACK!

OH, MY!

GREETINGS, MEGA-CITY ONE CITIZENS. I AM YOUR DRIVER, [redacted].

MEGA-CITY ONE WELCOMES YOU TO OUR COMFORTABLE AND SPACIOUS TAXI SERVICES.

TO WHERE MAY I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF ESCORTING YOUR PERSONAGES?

FOLLOW THAT TRUCK!

PLEASE OBSERVE ALL SECURITY PROTOCOLS BEFORE DEPARTURE. MEGA-CITY ONE REQUIRES ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PASSENGERS TO BE RESTRAINED BY SAFETY HARNESSES.

UNFORTUNATELY, VEHICLE PURSUIT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME, GIVEN VELOCITY CONSIDERATIONS. ALL PUBLIC VEHICLES ARE REQUIRED TO OBSERVE POSTED SPEED LIMITS—

OVERRIDE PROTOCOL: ALPHA-SEVEN-THREE-ALPHA.

NOW GET AFTER THAT TRUCK, OR I'LL SPREAD YOUR VELOC TY CONS DERAT ONS OVER THE INS DE OF THIS CAB.

...PLEASE ENJOY THIS TOUR WITH COMPLIMENTARY GUIDE SERVICE. TO THE LEFT OF OUR VEHICLE, WE ARE APPROACHING THE OLD CHURCH DISTRICT, WHICH DATES BACK TO PRE-WAR YEARS...

ANDERSON! UP AHEAD!

GOT IT! LAWGIVER-RICOCHET!

...PLEASE DO NOT HANG OUT OF THE WINDOWS. SHARP OBJECTS ARE KNOWN TO CAUSE FATALITIES AT THIS SPEED...

DREDD! LOOK OUT!

THOOM

DROKK IT

..REQUESTING DIGI-TRACE MY PROXIMITY TARGET VEHICLE IS BLUE 2136 MODEL NIGHTSTABBER.

...MEGA-CITY ONE VEHICLE OPERATING SYSTEMS WISHES YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY DAY.

THANK-YOU FOR CHOOSING LET ME DRIVE YOU STANISLAUS AS YOUR METHOD OF TRANSIT...

WBOT NEWS, CHANNEL 4387 BRINGING YOU LIVE AND UPDATED TRAFFIC AND WEATHER REPORTS ON THE HOUR, EVERY HOUR!

AND BOY, FOLKS, WE FINALLY HAVE SOMETHING OTHER THAN CLEAR SKIES AND PERFECT TRAFFIC TO REPORT!

"MEGA-CITY ONE'S WEATHER SERVICE IS NOW PREDICTING HEAVY DOWNPOURS OF DILUTED CARBORANE ACID RAIN IN MID-CENTRAL AND OUTLYING AREAS.

"A DENSE METHANE FOG IS EXPECTED TO ROLL IN PAST THE HOUR AND STAY UNTIL NIGHTFALL, AS MOST CLIMATE CONTROLS HAVE FAILED DUE TO ACID EROSION.

"WBOT BRINGS YOU A LIVE LOOK AT SOME OF THE MANY VEHICLES NOW DEAD AND ABANDONED ON THE SECTOR 10 SECTION OF BOOMWAY 54. ALL SURROUNDING SKEDWAYS ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, AND TRAFFIC IS AT A STANDSTILL.

MEDIC AT SIX! UNTIL THEN, I'M YOUR EYE IN THE SKY, BINGO CHUNDERBUTTOCKS, AND WE'LL KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON!

AROOGAH!

"AUTHORITIES ARE URGING ALL CITIZENS TO STAY INDOORS, WITH MANY MORE FATALITIES EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF THE MIDTOWN BLOCK WAR AND ACID AIR QUALITY."

THIS PLACE IS STARTING TO STINK.

EVERYWHERE'S STARTING TO STINK. IF WE DON'T FIX THE SPILLOVER SOON, THE SMELL WILL NEVER WEAR OFF—

JUDGES! GOT YOUR SPECIMENS RIGHT HERE.

ALL THREE SEEM TO BE IN OPTIMAL HEALTH.

PSI-GRID'S OFF THE CHARTS, ANDERSON. THE BLENDERS MIGHT BE EXCRETING HYPERSTRING.

I'D LIKE TO STUDY THEM FURTHER, FIND OUT WHAT MAKES THEM WORK.

MAYBE WE CAN JUST ASK THEM.

MAYBE WE CAN JUST *SCAN* THEM. IT'S QUICKER.

THERE YOU GO AGAIN, DREDD. SOMETIMES, YOU HAVE THE IMAGINATION OF A *BRICK*.

GOD... I SWEAR I CAN SEE THEIR ENERGY FIELDS. IT'S LIKE THEY'RE REACHING OUT BUT WE'RE ALREADY CONNECTED...

OH.

OMIGOD, IT'S AMAZING, DREDD... THEY LIVE IN THE SLIPSTREAM... I CAN SEE THEM LEECHING IN AND OJT OF OUR UNIVERSE..

..THE WHOLE THING'S A STRAND OF INTER-CONNECT V.TY. .

DREDD, THE BLENDERS WANT JS TO KNOW THEY CAN HEAR US. THEY'RE LEARN NG TO UNDERSTAND OUR THOUGHTS. WE'VE BROUGHT THEM SENT ENCE, AND FOR THAT, THEY'RE GRATEFUL.

THEY'RE AMAZING CREATURES. THEY ADAPT TO THE R HOSTS' NEEDS. THEY SCRJB THE CELLS CLEAN, EVEN AT A QUANTUM LEVEL THEY REPLACE THEIR OWN BODIES—ESSENTIALLY BEING REBORN EVERY F VE OR SIX YEARS.

THE BLENDERS ARE THE KEY TO ETERNAL LIFE— LIKE, STOOK E ON STERO DS. AND THERE'S SOMETH.NG ELSE..

...SOMETHING... SOMEONE

WHAT IS T? WHAT ELSE?

THERE'S MORE OF THEM. AL VE IN THE SPILLOVER.

MORE?

I CAN'T BE CERTAIN. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM IS REALLY WEIRD.

MAYBE SOME OF THE SCRUBBERS SURVIVED THE INITIAL EXPLOSIONS. BUT THE CONNECTION POINT IS DEFINITELY CENTERED ***BELOW*** THE CITY.

JUDGES, WE DON'T KNOW THE EXACT LAYOUT OF THE SPILLOVER—IT MORPHS OVER TIME BECAUSE THE TOXIC ENVIRONMENT BREAKS DOWN OLD WALLS AND THE GREASE FORMS NEW ONES.

MOST WE KNOW: THERE'S A CENTRAL CHAMBER ABOUT SEVEN HUNDRED METERS DOWN. IF THE SCRUBBERS WENT DOWN THAT FAR, THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GET BACK OUT.

WE NEED THOSE SCRUBBERS. THIS CITY'S ABOUT TO CHOKE ON ITSELF. SEVEN HUNDRED METERS.

MIGHT AS WELL BE A MILE. THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO GET DOWN THERE.

YOU'RE WATCHING NIGHTTIME LIVE ON W8OT, CHANNEL 4837, AND I'M YOUR HOST, JUST A DROID CALLED STEVEN.

IN A MINUTE, STUPID ROBOT TRICKS. BUT NOW, MY FIRST GUEST: LEADER OF THE ANTI-ALIEN LEAGUE, SECOND PLACE ALL MEGA-CITY DEBATING TEAM, AND RACONTEUR EXTRAORDINAIRE...

...PLEASE WELCOME, FROM LIONEL MESSI BLOCK, MISTER SPENCER RICHARDS!

THANKYEW... THANKYEW. KILL ALL OFF ES. THANKYEW.

POWER TO THE *CHOSEN!*

SO—SPENCER—LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK. EVEN A BUSY ONE, *HUH?* MEDIA TIED YOU TO RESIDENCY AT LIONEL MESSI BLOCK—

FAKE MEDIA.

—FAKE MEDIA, RIGHT. WHAT DO YOU SAY TO CRITICS ACCUSING LIONEL MESSI BLOCK OF PROMOTING ANTI-ALIEN ACTIVITIES UNDER THE THE GUISE OF A HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION?

WELL—*ROBOT*—T'S NEVER BEEN A S TUATION THAT ANYONE HAS TR.ED TO HIDE. IN FACT, LIONEL MESS BLOCK TAKES AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF *PRIDE* IN OUR CIV.C STANCE.

RECENTLY, AS YOU KNOW, A PLOT WAS JNCOVERED TO CAMOUFLAGE AN *ILLEGAL* OFFWOR.DER BE NG HARBORED IN SANCTUARY BLOCK WI.F ZAHA, TO OUR SOUTH.

LIONEL MESS BLOCK HAS TAKEN STEPS TO CORRECT TH S *FLAGRANT VIOLATION* OF MEGA-C TY POLICY AND LAW.

WE KILL ALL OFF.ES, AS IS OUR CIVIC DJTY AND OUR *INALIENABLE RIGHT* AS NON-AL.ENS.

CIT ZENS OF MEGA-C TY ONE: THE TIME S UPON JS. THE JUDGES HAVE *ILLEGALLY* DECLARED A PROTECTION ORDER AND AMNESTY FOR ALL *SO-CALLED* "BLENDER" SYMBIOTES.

THESE... ABERRATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH N A HUMAN HOST IMMEDIATELY. HOWEVER, THE LAW STATES QUITE UNAMB GUOUSLY THAT UNREG.STERED BLENDERS ARE STILL *FAIR GAME*

IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE GENOTYPAL INTEGRITY OF OUR H.STORIC SOCIETY, WE CALL UPON ALL CITIZENS TO *IDENTIFY* AND *ERADICATE* ANY UNREGISTERED OFFIE BEFORE IT S GIVEN SAFE HAVEN.

NO *FREE PASSES* TO ANY ENTITY BORN ON ANY OTHER PLANET.

MISTER RICHARDS: MANY PEOPLE HAVE CALLED YOU AN UNCONTROLLED NAZI SYMPATHIZER HEARKENING BACK TO THE DARK DAYS OF THE MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY;

A BULLY, UNAWARE OF HIS OWN SPECIES' CULPABILITY IN THE GENOCIDE OF MILLIONS, AND UNABLE TO ARTICULATE A SENTENCE JUSTIFYING HIS POSITION BEYOND A CALL TO PITCHFORKS AND GASOLINE.

WHAT SAY YOU TO THOSE CRITICS?

MY MESSAGE IS A MESSAGE TO ALL REPUTABLE AND APPROVABLE CITIZENS: YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOU KNOW WHAT WE STAND FOR. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WEAR YOUR PREJUD.CE AS A BADGE OF COURAGE.

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T WEAR OUR BADGE, WE CAN'T BE BLAMED FOR ACCIDENTALLY MISTAKING YOU AS A *TARGET*.

"WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME

"ALL INDICATIONS ARE THE SPILLOVER IS ABOUT TO BLOW AGAIN. THIS TIME, IT'S GOING TO BE THE *LAST* TIME.

"THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS EXHAUSTED ALL OPTIONS. AND WITH THE BLOCK WAR SHOWING NO SIGNS OF DIMINISHING, OUR RESOURCES DON'T EVEN *EXIST*.

"TIME'S UP. OPTIONS ARE LIMITED TO ONE.

"THE ONLY WAY OUT IS *DOWN*."

DREDD, I'M RECEIVING ALL B O-FEEDS AND VITALS BJT THE S GNAL IS ALREADY DETERIORATING.

THE BLENDERS NSIDE YOUR BOD ES ARE HO_DING UP WELL. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

LIKE I'M DRIVING THROUGH A BIG SEWER.

CONTROL, THIS IS JJDGE NOAH SCAMMON. I'M READ NG A TON OF ACT V.TY I CAN'T EXPLAIN. OUR 'CORDERS MAY BE ON THE FR TZ.

NO VIS BLE SIGNS OF L FE. AMBIENT A R QUALITY READS AS FATAL BJT WE'RE DOING FINE. FEELING *GOOD*, ACTUALLY.

I'M GETTING A STRONG SENSE OF ADDIT.ONAL PSYCHIC ENERGY BUT IT'S HARD TO PLACE.

SOMETIMES, IT FEELS AS THOUGH IT'S ALL AROUND US. OTHER TIMES, IT FEELS D.STANT.

DREDD, THOUGHTS?

OKAY... HANG ON... MY BIO-CORDER JJST DIED.

AND I'VE LOST AUDIO. WE'RE ON OUR OWN.

DROKK IT. LAWMASTER'S FAILING. ALL THE PLATINUM CIRCUITS HAVE CORRODED

MINE'S GOING TOO. WE'LL HAVE TO GO ON FOOT.

ONLY ANOTHER FIFTY OR SO INTO THE FIRST CHAMBER.

JUDGE ANDERSON, I GOTTA SAY THIS IS A UNIQUE FEELING.

I DON'T FEEL ANY FATIGUE. LUNGS FEEL GREAT. AIR TASTES LIKE ATTAR.. LIKE ROSES. IT'S WEIRD.

AGREED. I ALMOST FEEL ELATED.

JUST STAY ON POINT. ALWAYS ON POINT, AND ON TASK.

YES, JUDGE.

SCAMMON, I HAVE A QUESTION: ARE YOU THE MOST ON-POINT, BROWN-NOSING HYPER-ACHIEVER WE'VE EVER HAD IN THE SYSTEM, OR IS THIS JUST A DEFENSE MECHANISM OF YOURS?

I TRY TO EXCEL, JUDGE ANDERSON.

KISS-ASS

BIO-CORDER'S COM NG TO LIFE. I DON'T GET IT THERE'S NOTHING HERE IT SAYS WE'RE SURROUNDED.

NO... I FEEL IT. IT'S EVERYWHERE. MAYBE THE BLENDERS THR VE .N THE WALLS.

BUT IT'S NOT... I MEAN IT'S MULT PLE ENTIT ES AS *ONE*...

IT'S E THER MULTIPLE ENTIT ES OR IT'S ONE. THE TWO ARE MJTUALLY EXCLUS.VE.

PULL WEAPONS AND STAY ALERT. I HAVE A BAD FEEL.NG ABOUT THIS PLACE

ONE OF THESE DAYS, JOE, YOU'RE GO.NG TO HAVE A GOOD FEELING. AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, THAT'S GOING TO G VE ME A VERY BAD FEELING .NDEED.

SCAMMON, AM I RIGHT?

THERE IS SOMETH NG REALLY WRONG WITH THIS TH.NG..

IT SAYS WE'RE RIGHT ON TOP OF THEM.

OR RIGHT BENEATH THEM.

ART BY **MARK BUCKINGHAM** COLORS BY **CHRIS BLYTHE**

THIS CITY. MEGA-CITY ONE.

TH S GIANT HIVE.

IS DYING.

WHAT'S IT DOING?

IT'S *COMMUNICATING* WITH US, DREDD. YOU'RE CARRYING A SYMBIOTE IN YOJR CHEST. IT SHOULD BE SENDING YOU RESIDJAL PSYCH.C IMPRESS ONS.

I DON'T DO IMPRESSIONS. I'M A JJDGE—

GRUD, DREDD... YOU CAN BE SO *THICK-SKULLED!*

IT'S NOT A SIGN OF WEAKNESS TO OPEN *UP* ONCE IN A WHILE! CONCENTRATE. YOU MIGHT LEARN SOMETH NG.

JJDGE ANDERSON... I CAN FEEL HER THOUGHTS COMING THROJGH. IT'S WEIRD... LIKE AN EGG STRAINING THROUGH A SIEVE.

THIS ONE IS THEIR QUEEN—THE ENT RE CAVERN SYSTEM SPREADS THROUGHOUT HER BODY. SHE'S LITERALLY HALF OF THE SPILLOVER.

WE HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MANY OF YOUR YEARS. WATCHING. WONDERING.

LEARNING.

WHY DOES YOUR SPEC ES DEVOJR ITS OWN?

WE'RE NOT CONNECTED, AS YOUR SPEC ES IS, MAJESTY. YOJ MUST KNOW THIS. WE ALL HAVE OUR PLACE IN WHAT YOU CALL OJR HIVE, MEGA-CITY ONE.

FORG VE US. THOSE UNCONNECTED MJST RELY ON ,NTUITION AND FAITH.

IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, WE ARE HERE TO RECOVER THE REMA.NS OF OUR CITIZENS WHO WORK HERE BELOW IN THE SPILLOVER!

IT IS POSSIBLE SOME OF THEIR NLMBER MAY HAVE SJRVIVED A RECENT TRAJMATIC INCIDENT! CAN YOU IND.CATE THEIR WHEREABOUTS?

WE HEAR YOJR THOUGHTS, JLDGE DREDD. FOR YOU CARRY ONE OF OUR CHILDREN WITH.N—

I DON'T CARRY A CHILD. WHERE ARE OUR CITIZENS?

DREDD! ANDERSON! OVER HERE!

THESE PEOPLE ARE CITIZENS OF MEGA-CITY ONE.

I DEMAND THAT YOJ RELEASE THEM INTO OUR CUSTODY *IMMEDIATELY!*

DREDD, THESE ARE *BLENDERS*— HJNDREDS OF THEM.

LOOK AT THE NEWLY-FORMED SKIN ON THESE SCRUBBERS...

...THERE'S SOME REPLACEMENT OF SKELETAL STRJCTJRE AND AVASCJLAR CARTILAGE.

GRJD! THEY CAME DOWN HERE AFTER THE BOMBING. SHE'S *REPAIRING* THEM!

WE GIVE ONLY L FE, IN RETURN FOR SUSTENANCE. THESE OF YOJR SPECIES ARE OUR PROTECTORS, LOVED.

AS WE LOVE ALL. AS WE LOVE YOJ, JUDGE DREDD. FOR YOU HARBOR ONE OF OUR KIND, WHICH IN TURN PROTECTS YOU FROM THIS HARSH ENVIRONMENT.

YOJR POSITION IS JNDERSTOOD. MEGA-C TY ONE THANKS YOU FOR YOJR SERVICE TO ITS PEOPLE.

YOJ AND YOJR SPECIES HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY CH EF JUDGE BARBARA HERSHEY AND GRANTED LEGAL IMM.GRANT STATUS AS REFJGEES.

WE WELCOME YOU INTO CIT ZENSHIP OF MEGA-CITY ONE, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES BESTOWED HEREJPON.

I *KNEW* YOU HAD IT N YOU, JOE DREDD, YOU CLOSET EMPATH.

ANDERSON, I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THE BLENDERS' PROCESS WILL TAKE BJT WE CAN'T STAY HERE INDEFINITELY. OUR GEAR IS DETERIORAT.NG FAST. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A MOVE.

STAY HERE WITH SCAMMON WHILE I GET BACK TO THE SURFACE. WE NEED TO GET THESE SCRLBBERS TOPSIDE.

THE R INJURIES WERE SEVERE. BUT OJR CHILDREN HAVE ALMOST COMPLETED THE REPAIR CYCLE.

HOWEVER, THESE OF YOUR SPECIES CANNOT BE MOVED.

I'LL HEAD JP ABOVE. STAY HERE AND MONITOR THE RECOVERY.

THIS EXTRACT ON'S GOING TO BE TRICKY IF WE CAN'T GET MED.CAL VEHICLES DOWN HERE—

WAIT! YOU DO NOT JNDERSTAND.

THERE IS A REASON WE CANNOT ALLOW THESE INJURED TO BE RELOCATED. THERE IS STILL DANGER.

IT COMES FROM ABOVE.

IT'S NOT LOOKING GOOD, CHIEF JUDGE. WE THINK ABOUT SIXTY TO SEVENTY ARMED INDIVIDUALS BREACHED.

THEY'RE HEADED DOWN INTO THE SPILLOVER, TOWARDS DREDD AND THE OTHERS.

THAT'S A ONE-WAY TICKET. THEY DON'T HAVE THE NECESSARY PROTECTIVE GEAR, AND THEY'RE NOT HARBORING SYMBIOTES LIKE OUR JUDGES.

WE THINK IT'S A SUICIDE MISSION, CHIEF JUDGE. THEY'RE FANATICS.

THE ANTI-ALIEN LEAGUE SET UP A PROTEST RALLY A BLOCK FROM HERE. IT'S PROBABLY A DIVERSION.

NO ALIE

OUT!

STOP OFFIES

FREE ZONE

ORE OFFIES

GO AWAY!

WE HAVE WALKED THE PATH OF *RIGHTEOUSNESS*, AND NOW, OUR BRAVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS DESCEND INTO THE MAW! INTO THE MUCK AND THE FILTH, FOR THE *PRESERVATION* OF OUR SPECIES!

THINK OF THOSE WHO GO BELOW, WHO PLUNGE INTO THE FILTH TO SAVE US ALL!

NO MORE OFFIES

THIS ISN'T ABOUT WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG—NOT ANYMORE! THE JUDGES HAVE ALLOWED THESE *FILTHY* OFFWORLDERS INTO OUR HALLOWED CITY! AND DIDN'T I TELL YOU THEY'D FIND A WAY UNDER OUR VERY SKIN?

ALIEN-FREE ZONE

THEY'RE *EVERYWHERE*, AND IN EVERYTHING. CHANGING OUR WAY OF LIFE, BRINGING US BLOCK WARS AND POLLUTING THE AIR.

I AM HERE TO RESTORE OUR PURITY.

GET R.CHARDS OUT OF HERE: CONSPIRACY TO INCITE A PUBLIC INC.DENT, ANTI-DEFAMATION. TEN TO TWENTY.

IF ANY OF H S PEOPLE PROTEST, MAKE THEM ACCOMPLICES AFTER THE FACT. AND I WANT A LOCK ON HIS WHEREABOUTS DLR NG THE ASSASS NATION OF CIT ZEN PHETA.

OH, THEY ARE COMING FOR ME, MY FELLOW PATRIOTS! THEY WANT TO SQUASH MY RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH! THEY WANT TO TAKE AWAY YOLR ***FREEDOMS!***

BJT WHAT THEY'RE REALLY TRY NG TO ARREST IS THE ***TRUTH!*** YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! RESIST! REORGANIZE! ***RETALIATE!***

RESIST! REORGANIZE! RETALIATE!

CITIZEN SPENCER RICHARDS, YOU ARE GU LTY OF THE CRIMES OF INCITEMENT AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT, INCITEMENT TO COMM.T MJRDER, AND CONSPIRACY.

YOU WILL BE TAGGED AND SERVE TIME IN AN .SO-CUBE. YOJ HAVE THE R GHT TO APPEAL. YOJ HAVE NO RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...

I KNOW MY R.GHTS.

JUST AS THESE PATRIOTS KNOW YOJ ARE COMPL.CIT IN THE STAINING OF OUR GENETIC POOL.

HOW *MANY*, DO YOU THINK?

NO WAY OF KNOWING. AS MANY AS WE NEED TO KILL.

DREDD, THIS THING'S FR.ED. WE'RE GOING TO BE MINJS ONE LAWG.VER. I'M SORRY.

NOT YOUR FAJLT, SCAMMON. EVEN THE PLATINUM HOJSING IS GO NG TO DECAY UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.

QUEEN, LISTEN TO ME: WE NEED YOJR ASSISTANCE—I HEREBY COMMANDEER THIS SECTION OF THE SPILLOVER JNTIL IT CAN BE SECURED AGAINST ATTACK.

CAN YOU LOCK OFF OR DENY ACCESS TO THIS AREA?

PLEASE. THESE OTHERS MEAN YOU HARM. THEY'RE HERE TO KILL YOU.

THEY'LL KILL YOJR CHILDREN. YOJ MUST UNDERSTAND.

WE CANNOT ASSIST IN THE END.NG OF A LIFE, IN ANY FORM. WE MAY ONLY *GRANT* IT.

DREDD, I CAN MOVE FJRTHER DOWN, TRY TO DRAW A FEW OF THE INTRJDERS BELOW.

THEY'RE ON A FINITE AMOUNT OF TIME—

NOT NECESSARY. WE'LL TAKE THE FORWARD POSITION.

YOU TAKE TH S BATON.

REMEMBER YOUR *TRAINING*: HAND-TO-HAND AGAINST ANY PERPS WHO BREAK THROUGH THE OUTER CORDON.

"REMEMBER YOUR *TRAINING?*" WHEN DID YOU EXPECT HIM TO BE IN THIS SITUATION AGAIN, EXACTLY?

I TAUGHT YOU WELL ENOUGH.

YOU SURE DID, YOU OLD CJRMUDGEON.

DON'T GET ALL SENTIMENTAL ON ME. WE HAVE A JOB TO DO.

STAY ON THE ENTRANCE INTENSE F RE JNT L YOUR WEAPON FA LS SELECT R COCHET AND TR ANGULATE

REMEMBER: THE CITY CAN'T AFFORD FOR US TO FAIL.

BANG BANG BANG

THERE'S TOO MANY—

STAY ON IT! KEEP THEM IN THE CROSSFIRE!

DREDD! THEY'RE BREAKING THROUGH!

I CAN'T HOLD THEM OFF MUCH LONGER!

FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION, SCAMMON!

DREDD, THIS IS HARDLY A TEACHABLE *MOMENT*—

LOOKIT THEM THINGS! THEY'RE *EATIN'* BILLY'S CORPSE!

IT AIN'T *HOLY!*

THEY'RE ALL *AROUND* US! TAKE 'EM DOWN—!

AAH! DREDD!

THEY'RE *KILLING* HER!

SCAMMON! ANOTHER PERP COM NG YOUR WAY! THEY'RE BREAKING APART!

-:MFF!:- ON T, DREDD!

AOWW! GOTTA LASER BLADE WITH YOJR NAME ON IT, JLDGE.

HALT! CITIZEN, YOU WILL LOWER THAT SAW OR SJFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!

NO CAN DO, YOU OFFIE-LOVIN' TRAITOR!

HRAHHHH!

-HJFF!-

DREDD, THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM! STAY ON THE ENTRANCE, JUST IN CASE—I'LL HELP SCAMMON!

NO.. STAY BACK! HE'S SET THE BLADE TO WH.TE—!

THA'S RIGHT, JUDGE. YOU LIVE IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST, YOJ LAY DOWN TO DIE WITH THE DEVIL.

JJDGE ANDERSON— GET DOWN!

SCAMMON!

*THIS CITY.

*LIKE A PUNCH-DRUNK BOXER OF OLD, IT TAKES A L CKING AND KEEPS ON *TICKING*

*THE PUGILISTS HAVE TAKEN THEIR BLOWS, AND TAKEN THE R BOWS. EX T, STAGE LEFT.

*LEAVING ONLY BLOODSTAINS AND BROKEN BONES AS THE LEGACY OF A BLOCK WAR THAT NO ONE WILL REMEMBER UNTIL THE NEXT ONE.

*THE SKIES CLEAR, SO THAT MEGA-CITY ONE EMERGES FROM THE DUST, LIKE A DYING BEGGAR EMERGES FROM A SANDSTORM.

*THIS IS THE NEW ABNORMAL.

"SAME AS THE OLD ABNORMAL."

"OH, THE CLEANUP CREWS AND MEAT WAGONS WILL DRAG THE REMAINS OF THE CARNAGE FROM THE STREETS. AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF CITIZENS WILL GO BACK TO THEIR DAILY GRIND.

"THE AIR WILL BE CLEAN AGAIN, AND RECEPTACLES WILL WASH AWAY THE WASTE OF HUMANITY ABOVE.

"ORDER WILL BE RESTORED, AND THE RULE OF LAW WILL ONCE AGAIN RETURN TO MEGA-CITY ONE..."

...BUT FOR SPENCER RICHARDS – LEADER OF THE ANTI-ALIEN LEAGUE – THE CHANCE TO RESIDE WITHIN THIS NEW ABNORMAL RESTS UPON HIS RIGHT OF APPEAL.

CITIZEN SPENCER R CHARDS, YOJR APPEAL HAS BEEN REV EWED BY THIS COJRT AND FOJND TO BE WITHOUT MER.T.

IT'S AN EXERCISE IN PUBL C RELATIONS— A PUBLICITY STUNT THAT THIS COURT WILL NO LONGER G VE TIME TO. YOUR APPEAL S DEN ED, AND YOUR SUMMARY SENTENCE REMA.NS AS DISPENSED IN THE FIELD.

WELL, OF COURSE IT'S A ***PUBLICITY STUNT***, YOU DR ED UP OLD GOAT. MY PEOPLE WANT TO SEE THE TYRANNY OF THE JJDGES FOR THEMSELVES, LIVE AND TELEVISED BY ROBOTS.

I WILL BE THE ***MARTYR*** THE PATRIOTS NEED, IF THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE HYPOCRISY OF THE OFF E-LOVING JLDGES.

JUDGE RATCHETT... ZZZT... THE DEFENDANT WAIVES HIS RIGHT TO SANITY... ZZZT... HIS RIGHT TO SPEAK IN MY DEFENSE...

CAN IT, YOU TIN CAN. I'M NOT AFRA'D TO DO MY TIME. I'LL BE BACK STRONGER THAN EVER, JJST AS SOON AS YOU PEOPLE KNOW IT.

CITIZEN RICHARDS, YOU MAY THINK YOU'VE ESCAPED FULL AND FAIR JUDGEMENT BUT YOU HAVE ANOTHER THINK COM.NG.

IT MAY INTEREST BOTH YOU AND YOUR CLUSTER OF DELUDED SUPPORTERS TO KNOW THAT ROUTINE SCANS HAVE UNCOVERED THE ***SECRET*** YOU HOPED TO WITHHOLD FROM TH S COURT.

LET THE RECORD SHOW, CIT ZEN SPENCER RICHARDS HARBORS AN ***ALIEN SYMBIOTE*** KNOWN AS A BLENDER WITH N HIS ***BODY***.

THAT'S A LIE A DAMNED LIE.

BY THE POWERS BESTOWED JPON ME BY THE CHARTER OF THIS GREAT CITY, I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO FORTY IN AN ISO-CUBE.

HOWEVER, THE CREATJRE YOU HARBOR WITHIN IS NOW FJLLY RECOGNIZED AS A CIT ZEN OF MEGA-CITY ONE. IT CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO SERVE TIME FOR CR MES YOU HAVE COMMITTED.

LET THE JJDGEMENT SERVE NOTICE: MISTER RICHARDS IS HEREBY ORDERED TO RELEASE THE CAPTIVE BLENDER TO OJR CUSTODY FOR RELOCATION TO ANOTHER HOST—

NO!

NO, YOU CAN'T DO TH S TO ME! I'LL D E IN THERE!

I WAS SJPPOSED TO L VE FOREVER!

NNNNOOOOOOOO!

WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THE MODIFICATIONS WILL LAST FOR.

OUR TECHS HAVE REDESIGNED THE MOTHERBOARDS. PLATINUM'S REINFORCED FOUR-FOLD IN ALL KEY AREAS.

THIS NEW LAWMASTER'S TIRES ARE MADE OF CARBONATE. THEY'LL STAY INTACT, AND EVEN BUILD STRENGTH FROM THE COMPOUNDS FOUND BENEATH.

IT'S A BEAUTY, DREDD. NEVER THOUGHT WE'D HAVE OUR OWN JUDGE IN THE SPILLOVER.

NEVER THOUGHT WE'D NEED ONE.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING, ALL RIGHT. ALL YOU NEED IS THE RIGHT PERSON TO RIDE IT.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS? ONCE YOU GO INTO THE SPILLOVER, I DON'T SEE A WAY BACK.

I'M SURE.

JUDGE NOAH SCAMMON, YOU ARE HEREBY ASSIGNED TO PATROL THE SPILLOVER BENEATH THE CITY. IS THAT YOUR W SH, AS YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY DECLARED?

IT IS.

AND ON BEHALF OF MY SYMB OTE PARTNER, WE UNCONDITIONALLY ACCEPT THIS ASS.GNMENT.

YOU WILL NOW TAKE THE LONG WALK INTO THE SPILLOVER, AND THERE YOU WILL REMAIN JNTIL THE END OF YOUR DAYS, ALONE AND CARRY.NG OUT THE LAW.

TH S WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE MY PURPOSE, DREDD. THIS IS WHAT I WAS BORN TO DO.

ATTENT ON! LONG WALK, COM.NG THROLGH!

KISS-ASS

ART BY **JOHN GALLAGHER**

ART BY **JOHN GALLAGHER**

ART BY **JOHN GALLAGHER**

ART BY **JOHN GALLAGHER**

ART BY **MARCO CASTIELLO** COLORS BY **JASON MILLET**

JUDGE DREDD®

TOXIC

DREDD'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF A SEEMINGLY UNREMARKABLE SEWAGE WORKER SPIRALS INTO A WASTE MANAGEMENT CRISIS THAT COULD DESTROY ALL OF MEGA-CITY ONE!

Mega-City One has long used genetic modification on its waste workers to control the deluge of filth that flows under the city each day. When Dredd discovers that some of them have foregone that disfiguring procedure in favor of hosting protective alien symbiotes, it sparks a groundswell of anti-immigration fervor. Soon the toxic atmosphere spills into the streets, undermining the very infrastructure that makes the city tolerable. Can Dredd find a solution to save the now indispensable aliens from the angry mobs?

By Eisner Award-winning writer **Paul Jenkins** (*Hellblazer, Inhumans, Spectacular Spider-Man*) and artist **Marco Castiello.**

2000 AD

IDW

WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM